

What is claimed is:

1. An electrical test probe comprising:
2 a probe body:
a probe tip mechanically coupled to said probe body, wherein said probe tip is
4 ~~sub~~ capable of being electrically coupled to a test instrument; and
a control device mechanically coupled to said probe body, wherein said control
6 device is capable of being electrically coupled to said test instrument.
2. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 1 further comprising:
2 a finger guard mechanically coupled to said probe body.
- 3 An electrical test probe as recited in claim 1 wherein;
2 said control device is a push button switch.
4. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 1 wherein;
2 said control device is a rotary switch.
- 5 An electrical test probe as recited in claim 1 wherein;
2 said control device is a trackball.
- 6 An electrical test probe as recited in claim 1 wherein;
2 said control device is a joystick.
- 7 An electrical test probe as recited in claim 1 wherein;

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said control device includes an optoelectronic motion encoder.

8.

An electrical test probe as recited in claim 1 further comprising:

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a mode display mechanically coupled to said probe body and electrically coupled

to said test instrument visually representing a configuration of said test

4

instrument.

9.

An electrical test probe as recited in claim 8 wherein;

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said mode display is a liquid crystal display device.

10.

An electrical test probe as recited in claim 8 wherein;

2

said mode display is a light emitting diode display device.

11.

An electrical test probe as recited in claim 8 wherein;

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said mode display is one or more light emitting diodes.

12.

An electrical test probe as recited in claim 8 wherein;

2

said mode display is an electroluminescent display device.

13. An electrical test probe comprising:

2

a probe body;

4

a probe tip mechanically coupled to said probe body;

a control device mechanically coupled to said probe body; and

a communication port mechanically coupled to said probe body, and electrically

6 *5/19* coupled to said control device and said probe tip, wherein said communication
port is capable of being electrically coupled to an electrical test instrument.

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14 An electrical test probe as recited in claim 13 further comprising:
2 a finger guard mechanically coupled to said probe body.

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15 An electrical test probe as recited in claim 13 wherein;
said control device is a push button switch.

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16. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 13 wherein;
said control device is a rotary switch.

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17. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 13 wherein;
said control device is a trackball.

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18 An electrical test probe as recited in claim 13 wherein;
said control device is a joystick.

2

19 An electrical test probe as recited in claim 13 wherein;
said control device includes an optoelectronic motion encoder.

20 An electrical test probe as recited in claim 13 further comprising:

2 a mode display mechanically coupled to said probe body and electrically coupled
to said test instrument visually representing a configuration of said test
4 instrument.

21. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 20 wherein;

2 said mode display is a liquid crystal display device.

22. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 20 wherein;

2 said mode display is a light emitting diode display device.

23. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 20 wherein;

2 said mode display is one or more light emitting diodes.

24. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 20 wherein;

2 said mode display is an electroluminescent display device.

25. An electrical test probe comprising:

2 a probe body;

a probe tip mechanically coupled to said probe body;

4 a cable electrically coupled to said probe tip, mechanically coupled to said probe

body, and electrically and mechanically coupled to an electrical test

6 instrument; and

a control device mechanically coupled to said probe body and electrically coupled

8 to said cable, wherein said control device, when activated, activates a function

of said test instrument.

26 An electrical test probe as recited in claim 25, wherein said function of said test
2 instrument includes storing test data.

27. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 25, wherein said function of said test
2 instrument includes printing test data.

28 An electrical test probe as recited in claim 25 further comprising;
2 a finger guard mechanically coupled to said probe body.

29 An electrical test probe as recited in claim 25 wherein;
2 said control device is a push button switch.

30 An electrical test probe as recited in claim 25 wherein;
2 said control device is a rotary switch.

31 An electrical test probe as recited in claim 25 wherein;
2 said control device is a trackball.

32. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 25 wherein;
2 said control device is a joystick.

33. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 25 wherein;
2 said control device includes an optoelectronic motion encoder.

34. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 25 further comprising:
a mode display mechanically coupled to said probe body and electrically coupled
to said test instrument visually representing a configuration of said test
instrument.

35. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 32 wherein;
said mode display is a liquid crystal display device.

36. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 32 wherein;
said mode display is a light emitting diode display device.

37. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 32 wherein;
said mode display is one or more light emitting diodes.

38. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 32 wherein;
said mode display is an electroluminescent display device.